

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-19 remain in the case for consideration. Claims 3-7, and 10-16 are being canceled by this amendment.

Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly define where the recycle stream containing inhibitor comes from and where it is recycled to, thus overcoming the examiner's rejection of all claims as being indefinite under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. The amendment to claim 1 and the cancellation of claims 3-7 and 10-16 obviate the examiner's objection to the lack of antecedent basis for certain limitations in the claims.

The examiner has rejected all of the claims in the application, either under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) or 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated by or obvious over Higgins et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,033,829). This patent is discussed in applicant's specification. It discloses a process for inhibiting polymerization during styrene distillation using dinitrophenol as the inhibitor. Recycling a stream containing dinitrophenol inhibitor is disclosed.

Dinitrophenol is not a nitroxyl-containing compound and thus this patent provides no teaching of the difficulties encountered in using nitroxyl-containing compounds or inhibitors, nor does it suggest that problems involved in using nitroxyl-containing compounds as inhibitors can be overcome by recycling a stream containing such inhibitors at temperatures less than 110°C as specified in claim 1. Thus this patent fails to anticipate or make obvious the invention now defined in applicant's claims and it is requested that the rejections based thereon be withdrawn.

Petition for an Extension of Time

A Petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) for Extension of Time, requesting an extension of time for three months is also enclosed.

Applicant respectfully requests that a Notice of Allowance be issued in this

case.

Date: 5/9/03

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Docket No. **0036-PA**

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